

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 080381  
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02  
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 ACDA-07 /077 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:DPETTERSON:BB  
APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFEELE  
-----092054Z 014674 /73

R 091802Z APR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080381

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SF, RH, UK

SUBJECT: US-UK POSITION ON RHODESIAN REFERENDUM

REF: LONDON 05645 (NOTAL)

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFEELE AND BRITISH MINISTER JOHN MORTON SAW SOUTH AFRICAN CHARGE SHEARAR APRIL 7 AND CONVEYED TO HIM OUR RESPONSE TO SAG QUERY ABOUT HOW U.S. AND U.K. REGARD IDEA OF RHODESIAN REFERENDUM.

2. THEY TOLD SHEARAR THAT USG AND HMG HAD LOOKED CLOSELY AT THE IDEA AND HAD CONCLUDED THAT:

A) TO BE ACCEPTABLE INTERNATIONALLY, A REFERENDUM WOULD HAVE TO BE A FREE AND FAIR TEST OF OPINION.

B) IT COULD NOT BE SUPERVISED BY THE U.N. OR ANY OTHER OUTSIDE AUTHORITY UNLESS IT TOOK PLACE IN CONDITIONS OF PEACE; THEREFORE, A CEASEFIRE OR TRUCE WOULD HAVE TO BE  
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NEGOTIATED.

C) BUT WE COULD NOT SEE HOW THE PARTIES COULD BE BROUGHT TO CEASE GUERRILLA WARFARE AND RESUME NORMAL POLITICAL ACTIVITY UNTIL A SETTLEMENT HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED.

D) UNDER CONDITIONS OF WAR, A REFERENDUM COULD NOT BE

SUPERVISED AND ACCEPTED INTERNATIONALLY.

E) U.S. AND U.K. REMAIN COMMITTED TO SEEKING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND COUNT ON EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS DURING AND AFTER SECRETARY OF STATE OWEN'S VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA AND OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

3. SHEARAR SAID VORSTER HAD MADE THE POINT THAT SAG DOES NOT SEE HOW SMITH CAN NEGOTIATE WITHOUT KNOWING PRECISELY WHOM HE IS DEALING WITH. SHEARAR ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS NOT WEDDED TO A REFERENDUM OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR SPECIFIC APPROACH TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM. HE SAID HE WOULD INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT OF OUR POSITION, AND THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR PRETORIA TO HAVE IT BEFORE DR. OWEN ARRIVES.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, REFERENDUMS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** DC PER MR. PETTERSON'S OFFICE  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009